

Washington, DC- On Thursday, President Obama announced the Federal Railroad Administration's plans for constructing the high-speed rail system funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (HR 1), also known as the Stimulus Bill. Among the eleven routes the President discussed would include connecting San Antonio to Tulsa, OK through Austin and Dallas, and to Little Rock, AK. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) praised the proposal.

"High-speed rail holds out the promise of dramatic improvements in passenger transportation," Gonzalez said. "A modern rail system can move more for less money and use less fuel than almost any other transportation system available. President Obama's proposed South-Central Corridor would create new opportunities for San Antonio businesses and new jobs for our citizens. Building this system will put Americans to work right away, helping us to recover from our current economic hardship, and also marks an investment in a better transportation system for our future."

The recovery bill included \$8 billion to fund high-speed rail projects over the next four years. In the budget he submitted to Congress, President Obama requested an additional \$1 billion per year for high-speed rail over the next five years.

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